

breakout ABSTRACT

Abstract No. 7

TITLE

ADVANCING ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH TRACKING: A FIVE YEAR FOLLOW-UP STUDY

TRACK

Network Sustainability

OBJECTIVES

Upon conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Describe and evaluate changes in environmental health tracking capacity at the state level over the past five years.
2. Identify opportunities for future enhancements of tracking at the national, state, and local levels.
3. Understand the public health implications of nationwide health tracking efforts.

SUMMARY

The objective of our work was to understand how environmental public health tracking (tracking) has progressed since the release of the 2000 Pew Environmental Health Commission's Report, "America's Environmental Health Gap: Why the Country Needs a Nationwide Health Tracking Network." We conducted a national follow-up telephone survey with state practitioners to understand environmental tracking trends and how state-level capacity and activities have changed over the past five years.

This investigation has provided quantifiable measures of progress in implement the Pew tracking recommendations. New and enhanced federal-state partnerships, improved capacity for surveillance, data analysis and communications and support for tracking personnel have provided a foundation for progress. We also found that the CDC support of tracking has strengthened the national tracking infrastructure and capacity to track environmental hazards, exposures, and health effects.

Funding, data access, and translation of data to prevention activities are critical to sustaining tracking progress and developing the evidence base for assessing the longer term impacts and efficacy of tracking and related environmental health improvements.

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